

Appl. No. : 10/719,416
Filed : November 21, 2003

REMARKS

As of the mailing of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-14 and 28-31 were pending. Claims 1-14 were previously deemed allowable by the Examiner. Claims 28-31 were the only claims rejected in the Final Office Action. Claims 28-31 are presently canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. This cancellation is not to be interpreted as a surrender of subject matter and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter at a later date.

While Claims 28-31 have been cancelled, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the cited art (Ding et al.). Applicants note that the device shown in Figures 2 and 3 of Ding et al. appears to be radial, rather than flat (see the description of Figure 2, at col. 6, lines 50-58 and the line under item 120 and above item 90 in Figure 3). Thus, the reference does not anticipate or make obvious previously pending Claims 28-31 because it does not teach a flat segment as claimed. If, after the Examiner reviews the relevant teachings of Ding et al., the Examiner agrees with the above interpretation of Ding et al., Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants to reinstate Claims 28-31 by Examiner's Amendment.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants agree with the Examiner that not all of the elements have been taught by the art of record and there is no art or reason of record for why one of skill in the art would have modified the prior art devices to obtain the presently claimed invention. For clarification purposes, Applicants note that the pitches that are pointed in the same direction are the pitches of the inner and outer surfaces of the upper and lower walls.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and request the same. If, however, some issue remains that the Examiner feels can be addressed by Examiner Amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

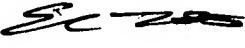
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/31/06

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